

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1343

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

REPORT ON MALNUTRITION

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of malnutrition related facts brought to light in the Human Development Report by the Planning Commission;
- (b) whether in spite of various schemes being run by the Government more than one third of the total population and half of children's population of the country are victims of malnutrition according to the said report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount allocated by the Planning Commission for various schemes to root out malnutrition during the last decade, schemewise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a): The India Human Development Report 2011 Towards Social Inclusion, published by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission Government of India highlighted the following Malnutrition related facts-

Nearly half of India's children under three years of age are malnourished. There are wide gaps between states and rural and urban areas with respect to cereal consumption.

Child malnutrition is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. There has been a significant decline in stunted children in India (from 52 % in 1992-93 to 38.4% in 2005-06).

The prevalence of anemia among adolescent girls is very high with severe anemia being more prevalent among them than among pre school children.

Anaemia among children has increased over the years with rising rural – urban disparity.

(b) and (c): According to the said report "A third of India's adult population has a body mass index (BMI) of less than 18.5 (the number below which people are declared undernourished)". The report also states that " Sixty years after Independence, nearly half of India's children under three years of age are malnourished."

The details are as follows-

There are high interstate disparities with respect to overall hunger in India, with the poor states at the bottom.

There is high concentration of adult malnutrition (BMI< 18.5) among the poor states.

There is an increasing trend of malnutrition among adult women in the low income states.

Interstate disparity has been increasing for malnutrition in adult women belonging to SCs and STs.

SCs and STs are diverging from the national average in terms of female malnutrition.

More than 50 % of ST children are underweight and stunted.

More than 75 % of ST children have anemia.

There is an increasing trend of anaemia among women for all caste groups.

There is no difference between Hindus and Muslims in terms of malnutrition among women.

(d) : The Hon'ble President of India in her 'Address to Parliament' on 12th March, 2012 has observed that "Malnutrition has been seriously impacting children, affecting their chances of gaining education and earning sustainable livelihood." The Finance Minister in the Budget Speech on 16th March, 2012 has stated that one of the five objectives of the Budget 2012-13 is to 'Intervene decisively to address the problem of malnutrition especially in the 200 high-burden districts'. The Prime Minister in his reply to the Motion of Thanks on President's Address has stated that addressing the challenge of malnutrition may be a major priority of the Government.

The details of the amount allocated by Planning Commission for various schemes to root out malnutrition during the last decade are provided in the Annexure.